

Message Text

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42

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-14 DPW-01 DRC-01

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O 031104Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9541

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MILI, VN, VS

SUBJ: HANOI DENOUNCES SECDEF REMARKS ON BOMBING

REF: A. FBIS S011155, B. FBIS S011350, C. FBIS S020605,

D. FBIS S021245

1. THE COMMUNISTS HAVE REACTED WITH UNUSUAL SPEED TO REMARKS MADE NOV 30 BY SECDEF SCHLESINGER REGARDING THE POSSIBLE RESUMPTION OF US BOMBING SHOULD HANOI LAUNCH A MAJOR OFFENSIVE IN SOUTH VIET-NAM. IN A DEC 1 STATEMENT (REF A) THE DRV FONMINISTRY CONDEMNED THE SECY FOR STATING "BRAZENLY" THAT PRES NIXON "WILL CERTAINLY PROPOSE THAT CONGRESS BACK MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF SOUTH VIET-NAM" RADIO HANOI, IN A BROADCAST THAT EVENING (REF B), CHARGED THAT THE US HAD FABRICATED THE THREAT OF A COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE TO JUSTIFY CONTINUED US MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN VIET-NAM AND AS A "SMOKESCREEN" TO COVER UP "SERIOUS VIOLATIONS" OF THE AGREEMENT BY THE US AND GVN.

THE BROADCAST BOASTED THAT, " IN THE PRESENT SITUATION IN WHICH BOTH THE US POSITION AND STRENGTH HAVE BEEN WEAKENED AND THE UNITED STATES HAS ENCOUNTERED GROWING DIFFICULTIES AT HOME AND ABROAD, THE THREATS WHICH IT HURLS WILL CERTAINLY BE UNABLE TO MAKE THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE TREMBLE WITH FEAR."

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2. IN ITS EDITORIAL ON DEC 2 (REF C) THE PARTY NEWSPAPER, NHAN DAN, FOCUSED ON THE ALLEGED CONTINUED US MILITARY PRESENCE IN SOUTH-VIET-NAM, STATING THAT IT IS BECAUSE THE US HAS "BRAZENLY VIOLATED" THE AGREEMENT THAT THE GVN HAS "BECOME INCREASINGLY WARLIKE." THE PAPER CLAIMED THAT SECY SCHLESINGER HAS "OPENLY ADMITTED" THAT THE US IS CONTINUING ITS "POLICY OF AGGRESSION", AND THAT THE COMMUNISTS WERE DETERMINED TO "STRUGGLE BY ALL MEANS" TO FORCE THE US AND GVN TO IMPLEMENT THE PARIS AGREEMENT.

3. HANOI'S ARMY NEWSPAPER, QUAN DOI NHAN DAN, WAS MORE EMPHATIC IN ITS CALL TO "STRUGGLE".IN AN COMMENTRAY (REF D), ALSO ON DEC 2, THE PAPER STATED: "FACED WITH THE FACT THAT SAIGON FORCES HAVE BEEN APPROPRIATELY PUNISHED FOR THE CRIMES THEY HAVE COMMITTED IN THE COURSE OF THEIR NIBBLING AND PACIFICATION OPERATIONS, THE UNITED STATES HAS AGAIN USED ITS 'AIR POWER' TRUMP CARD AS A BOGEY TO INTIMIDATE OUR PEOPLE. BUT THIS IS IN VAIN... WE PREVIOUSLY DIRECTED APPROPRIATE PUNITIVE BLOWS AT THE US ARMY AND AIR FORCE WHEN THEY WERE ESCALATING THE WAR TO THE HIGHEST DEGREE. TODAY THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE HAVE PUNISHED AND WILL RESOLUTELY PUNISH ALL ACTS OF WAR AND SABOTAGE OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT.").
MARTIN

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